

**CLERK'S SUMMARY AND OFFICIAL MINUTES  
MAYOR'S MENTAL HEALTH TASK FORCE  
CRIMINAL MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT  
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING  
DECEMBER 15, 2005**

The Criminal Mental Health Project Subcommittee of the Miami-Dade County Mayor's Mental Health Task Force (MMHTF) met in the Stephen P. Clark Government Center, Conference Room 29A, 111 N.W. First Street, Miami, Florida at 10:12 a.m. on December 15, 2005, there being present Co-Chairman Honorable Steve Leifman, Associate Administrative Judge, Eleventh Judicial District of Florida and Dr. Scott W. Allen, designee for Co-Chairman Director Robert Parker, Miami-Dade Police Department; Chief Assistant State Attorney Don Horn, designee for Co-Chairwoman Katherine Fernandez Rundle was absent; and Task Force members Mr. Tim Coffey, Assistant Mental Health Project Coordinator, Eleventh Judicial Circuit Criminal Mental Health Project; Ms. Sheila Siddiqui, Assistant Director, Jail Operations, Miami-Dade Department of Corrections; Director Charles McRay, Miami-Dade Department of Corrections; Sergeant Jose Seigle, representing Chief John Timoney, City of Miami Police Department; Dr. Steven Marcus, Chief Executive Officer, Foundation of South Florida; Menachem Mayber, Esq., representing Judge Jeffrey Rosinek; Dr. Charles J. LoPiccolo, Jackson Memorial Hospital/University of Miami; Mr. H. Scott Fingerhut, representing Mr. John Thornton, Jr.; Assistant County Attorney Valda Clark Christian and Deputy Clerk Judy Marsh.

Also present were Dr. James Rivers, Research Professor, Florida International University; Mr. Imran Ali; Ms. Rosemary Smith-Hoel, representing Ms. Virama Oller, Fellowship House; Ms. Cindy Schwartz, Director, Jail Diversion Program; Ms. Magda Orta; Mr. Luis Collazo, Florida Coalition for Assisted Living; Major Kevin Prescott, North Miami Beach Police Department; and Mr. John Kowal.

The following staff members from the Office of the Mayor were present: Mr. Juan Carlos Del Valle, Assistant to the Mayor; and Ms. Maria Robau, Project Manager, Mayor's Mental Health Task Force.

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Honorable Steve Leifman, Associate Administrative Judge, Eleventh Judicial District of Florida and Co-Chairman, Criminal Mental Health Project Subcommittee, called the Criminal Mental Health Project Subcommittee meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

## **II. Overview of the 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Criminal Mental Health Project (CMHP)**

Judge Leifman provided an overview of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Criminal Mental Health Project (CMHP) which resulted in the creation of the Jail Diversion Program (JDP). He noted the Program included a pre-arrest diversion component and a post-arrest diversion component. Judge Leifman said the pre-arrest diversion component consisted of the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Police model and 20 police agencies currently operated some form of the CIT model. He noted Dr. James Rivers, Florida International University, would provide a comprehensive report regarding the CIT Program.

Judge Leifman discussed the post-arrest diversion component of the JDP which he noted had resulted in reduced recidivism. He recommended the CMHP Subcommittee develop recommendations for the expansion of jail diversion services, promote the use of best practices in identifying individuals with potential mental illnesses, explore the feasibility of diverting third degree felons to mental health treatment facilities, and develop recommendations to standardize the operating procedures and command protocols utilized by law enforcement agencies with successful CIT programs.

## **III. Review of Grand Jury Recommendations Relating to CMHP Subcommittee Activities**

The Subcommittee members discussed Recommendations 1, 2, 7, 8, 9 and 12 contained within the Grand Jury Report entitled "Mental Illness and the Criminal Justice System: A Recipe for Disaster/A Prescription for Improvement."

Referring to Recommendation No. 1 that CIT training be provided for all correctional officers who work on floors housing inmates with mental illnesses, Judge Leifman asked that Ms. Habsi Kaba, CIT trainer, develop a training program for correctional officers and forward it to Dr. Scott Allan, and Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department Director Charles McRay for review and subsequently to the CMHP Subcommittee for discussion. He said if the training program was deemed appropriate by the CMHP Subcommittee, it would be recommended to the Mayor's Mental Health Task Force for approval. Judge Leifman requested that an implementation schedule for the training program for 2006 be also developed.

Ms. Cindy Schwartz, Director, Jail Diversion Program, said it was determined that correctional officers who had received Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training, benefited from the first three days of this training.

Judge Leifman responded to questions from Mr. John Kowal regarding implementation of CIT training in law enforcement agencies and the lack of compliance by some police officers with the Civil Baker Act Code. Judge Leifman suggested the Subcommittee develop recommendations to standardize the practices being utilized by CIT units.

Discussion ensued among the Subcommittee members regarding the public/private mental health receiving facilities in Miami-Dade County. The Subcommittee members also discussed the financial impact to Jackson Memorial Hospital (JMH) for treating patients with mental illnesses.

Judge Leifman commented on the lack of juvenile receiving facilities and suggested that the Subcommittee examine the structure and operation of the receiving facilities. He noted prior to creation of the CMHP Subcommittee he had discussed with Dr. LoPiccolo, the need to identify and target individuals who were the highest Baker Act recidivists. Judge Leifman also noted receiving facilities should provide treatment for individuals with co-occurring disorders.

Dr. Charles LoPiccolo, Vice-Chairman, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, JMH/University of Miami School of Medicine, concurred with Judge Leifman's comments. He noted indigent patients with mental illnesses should be transported to a Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) for treatment versus being transported to JMH.

Judge Leifman responded to questions from Mr. Louis Collazo regarding the rationale for transferring Baker Act patients to JMH and the receiving facilities' claims of insufficient beds.

Dr. Steven Marcus, Chief Executive Officer, Health Foundation of South Florida, suggested that a software program be utilized to monitor available beds in the receiving facilities.

Judge Leifman concurred with Dr. Marcus' suggestion and noted the Department of Children and Families might be able to identify funds to implement this program or the Subcommittee could apply for grants.

In response to Mr. John Kowal's suggestion that a mental health court be formulated, Judge Leifman said a diversion court was developed; however, the court could only access existing community resources. He suggested the Subcommittee develop recommendations for a centralized, mental health court system to process felony cases more expeditiously and appropriately.

In response to Mr. Imran Ali's inquiry, Judge Leifman suggested the Subcommittee discuss the potential consolidation or expansion of the juvenile receiving facilities.

Referring to Recommendation No. 2 of the Grand Jury Report regarding pay incentives to correctional officers who elected to serve their shifts working on the floors housing inmates with mental illnesses, Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department Director Charles McRay said he could not discuss this issue at today's Subcommittee meeting as it was currently being negotiated with the Police Benevolent Association.

Judge Leifman offered the Subcommittee's assistance in implementing Recommendation No. 2.

The Subcommittee members discussed Recommendation No. 7 of the Grand Jury Report regarding long term care for individuals with mental illnesses.

Dr. Marcus and Ms. Schwartz suggested that this recommendation reflect adequate funding for long-term outpatient care and residential treatment beds.

Mr. Tim Coffey, Assistant Mental Health Project Coordinator, suggested that an inventory be conducted of the existing beds and the number of providers in order to determine the estimated need.

Dr. Marcus recommended that a matrix be developed indicating the number of diversions to mental health facilities and the number of receiving beds.

Judge Leifman advised that Recommendations No. 8 and 9 of the Grand Jury Report regarding state/ local government officials providing additional resources to assist in the expansion of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida's Criminal Mental Health Project and its Jail Diversion Program; and the creation of Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) in every police department in Miami-Dade County respectively, were underway.

Judge Leifman requested the Subcommittee members develop standard operating procedures and standard command practices for CIT training that could be recommended to all the law enforcement agencies. He suggested the Subcommittee look at the City of Miami's CIT operation and determine how this could be applied to smaller law enforcement agencies.

Referring to Recommendation No. 12 of the Grand Jury Report regarding training for 911 dispatchers, Judge Leifman said a separate training program for 911 dispatchers was developed.

Following discussion regarding procedures for dispatching CIT officers to mental health related telephone calls, Judge Leifman suggested standardized countywide signals be used for identifying mental health related telephone calls. He noted this would assist with research data indicating the number of mental health calls being received. Judge Leifman requested that a representative from the City of Miami's information technology department be placed on the CMHP Subcommittee's agenda to further discuss mental health related telephone calls.

Judge Leifman concurred with the suggestion proffered by Ms. Schwartz regarding a public relations campaign to educate the community about the existence of CIT officers. He recommended that a representative from the County's Communication Department be assigned to assist in developing the campaign and also recommended the feasibility of CIT information being included on BellSouth telephone bills by zip codes.

Dr. James Rivers suggested the County's Team Metro and the City of Miami's Neighborhood Enforcement Team (NET) system be used to disseminate information regarding CIT.

Mr. Kowal suggested that individuals experiencing problems request transportation to receiving facilities.

Ms. Magda Orta offered to contact Mr. Frank Bolanos regarding the inclusion of CIT information on BellSouth telephone bills.

#### **IV. Overview of Brief Reports on CIT Training, Operations and Diversions in Miami-Dade County**

Dr. James E. Rivers, Research Professor, Florida International University, Department of Sociology/Anthropology, summarized the findings from the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training and Operations Survey of all local law enforcement agencies conducted during the fall of 2005. This survey, he noted, indicated that 19 out of 34 local law enforcement agencies had received CIT training to date; 801 officers had received CIT training since 2001; and 587 CIT-trained officers were employed by 17 local law enforcement agencies. Dr. Rivers said the procedures for the identification and recruitment of officers to be CIT trained varied considerably among agencies. He noted the City of Miami was the only police department in which the CIT officer kept a log of all mental health calls he/she was dispatched to and following discussion with the City's CIT officers, the unit decided to revise its log forms to include Baker Act cases. Dr. Rivers emphasized the importance of each CIT-trained police agency maintaining records in an identifiable form. He noted that was the only source of data reflecting the numbers and demographic characteristics.

Judge Leifman suggested the Subcommittee assist in developing inter-agency agreements with small police agencies for mental health calls.

Judge Leifman said some of the agencies' budgets were driven by the number of arrests and an incentive system should be created to demonstrate that the case was addressed and the officers would not be penalized for not making an arrest. He noted the arrest affidavit was re-designed to include a box reflecting a Possible Mental Health Defendant (PMHD) which the officer would check and this would be available on-line next year. Judge Leifman said the arrest affidavit would provide statistics for future work.

In response to Dr. Scott Allen's inquiry as to whether the police departments would be provided with a standardized CIT log form, Dr. Rivers suggested meeting with representatives of the City of Miami to discuss their log form.

Judge Leifman requested input from the other agencies regarding the development of a standardized CIT log form.

Ms. Cindy Schwartz suggested that the Subcommittee work within the parameters of the statewide effort to standardize CIT practices.

Judge Leifman noted the Florida Department of Law Enforcement would soon be certifying CIT training.

Dr. Rivers summarized the findings from an examination of the Miami Police Department Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) logs for May-July, 2005. He advised that of the 779 dispatches handled by the CIT Unit for the study period, approximately 89% were diversions to mental health facilities, and of 691 cases diverted to mental health facilities, 76.4% were taken to Jackson Memorial Hospital (JMH) Mental Health (MH) Crisis. Dr. Rivers noted diversion as a proportion of all CIT dispatches by South, North and Central districts, ranged from 82% to 94%. He said JMH MH Crisis as the destination by Miami Neighborhood Enforcement Team (NET) districts, ranged from 61% to 74% for South, Central and North districts. Dr. Rivers discussed the demographics and nationality of CIT diverted cases.

Dr. Rivers said the pre-booking diversion data were available only from the City of Miami Police Department's CIT logs and it was important that a standardized, record-keeping system be maintained by CIT officers.

Dr. Rivers concluded his presentation by noting the need for additional training for CIT officers and additional funding for mental health services.

Mr. Tim Coffey suggested the Subcommittee look at the JMH process and make recommendations to other receiving facilities.

Judge Leifman thanked Dr. Rivers for his presentation and noted this information would assist the Mayor's Mental Health Task Force in recommending policy changes.

Mr. Coffey offered to meet with Dr. Rivers before the next CMHP Subcommittee meeting to develop a CIT log which would subsequently be presented to the Subcommittee for review.

Judge Leifman asked that Ms. Habsi Kaba, CIT trainer, circulate the proposed CIT log among other CIT agencies.

Dr. Rivers noted the reports he presented were shared with the Florida CIT Alliance and there was an opportunity to make these efforts statewide.

Ms. Cindy Schwartz noted the City of Miami was the only agency keeping statistics on CIT calls throughout the State of Florida.

Sergeant Jose Seigle, City of Miami Police Department, noted the rationale for keeping statistics. He noted the Department wanted to deploy CIT officers where the need was greatest.

Judge Leifman suggested the Subcommittee develop a four-hour CIT management training program for agencies. Dr. Rivers concurred with this suggestion. He noted there were variations on management structure and approaches that were important to take under consideration.

Major Kevin Prescott, North Miami Beach Police Department, noted the importance of in-service and continuous training for CIT officers.

Ms. Schwartz said the CIT Coalition had agreed to host a summer workshop in Miami for organizations participating in the CIT program, however, local CIT education continued.

#### **V. Identification of Issues and Needs Relating to Specific Target Populations**

Presented

#### **VI. Additional Recommendations to be Addressed by the CMHP Subcommittee**

Presented

#### **VII. Other Subcommittee Recommendations/Items**

Judge Leifman said policy working papers would be prepared for the next Subcommittee meeting and he requested the members be prepared to begin working on policy issues at the next meeting. He requested that Dr. Marcus and Dr. LoPiccolo address healthcare administrative issues; representatives from the State Attorney's Office and the Miami-Dade Police Department work on expanding the Jail Diversion Program and CIT management training; a representative from the Communications Department attend the next Subcommittee meeting to assist in developing a public relations campaign to educate the community about CIT officers and that Ms. Orta arrange a meeting with BellSouth representatives.

#### **Next Meeting**

Judge Leifman noted the next CMHP Subcommittee would be scheduled for Wednesday, January 25, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:14 p.m.